

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 10, with the following paragraph:

The types of bar codes used in the bar code readers 1001 to 100n include the following three types, for example:

- (1) Year/month/date bar code,
- (2) Year/month bar code, and
- (3) ~~Date~~ Time setting bar code.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1, with the following paragraph:

The (3) ~~date~~ time setting bar code is a bar code for setting the date of a timer provided in each of the bar code readers 1001 to 100n. The types of the bar code are the following 10 types for incrementing or decrementing the year, month, day, hour and minute:

- (a) Year incremented bar code,
- (b) Month incremented bar code,
- (c) Day incremented bar code,
- (d) Hour incremented bar code,
- (e) Minute incremented bar code,
- (f) Year decremented bar code,
- (g) Month decremented bar code,
- (h) Day decremented bar code,
- (i) Hour decremented bar code, and
- (j) Minute decremented bar code.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22, with the following paragraph:

The laser beam reflected by the polygon mirror 103 is irradiated onto the black and white bars of a bar code 50 in a direction, for example, from a left end to a right end. The bar code 50 is the year/month/day bar code, year/month bar code or ~~date~~ time setting bar code.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 17, with the following paragraph:

If the ~~date~~ time setting bar code is read as the bar code 50, the main controller 109 gives a determination result of "Yes" at the step SA1. At step SA2, the main controller 109 determines whether the bar code 50 is a date setting bar code, and gives a determination result of "Yes" in this example.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 22, with the following paragraph:

At step SA5, the main controller 109 executes a ~~date~~ time setting processing for combining the bar codes (a) to (j), reading the combination, and setting a precise ~~date~~ time (year, month, day, hour, and minute) to the timer 110. At step SA6, the main controller 109 updates the date of the timer 110 to, for example, 09:00 of October 2, 2002 based on the read bar code information.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 3, with the following paragraph:

At step SA7, the main controller 109 notifies the LED 113, the speaker 114, and the display 115 of the completion of the ~~date~~ time setting to the timer 110, and then conducts the determination at the step SA1.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 23, with the following paragraph:

Moreover, the date of the timer 110 is set using the ~~date~~ time setting bar code as the bar code 50. Therefore, it is possible to simplify a ~~date~~ time setting operation.